

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR  
BEACONSFIELD  
URBAN DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1922.



HIGH WYCOMBE:  
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# Beaconsfield Urban District.

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## *Medical Officer's Annual Report to the Beaconsfield Urban District Council.*

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1922.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour of presenting to you, for your consideration, my twenty-second Annual Report on the sanitary condition and health of your town for the year ending December, 1922.

We have, on the whole, had a very satisfactory bill of health, in comparison with other districts.

Although in January Influenza was very prevalent, it was of a very mild character, but, even then, some cases developed Bronchial Gastric and Ear Troubles, and the most difficult cases for diagnosis were in young children.

Again in this month we had cases of Scarlet Fever, about which I shall refer to later. We have also had cases of Diphtheria and Measles, but we have been remarkably free from infectious diseases; although in the case of the Scarlet Fever cases it was compulsory to open our Fever Hospital, owing to congestion in the London and neighbouring Fever Hospitals. In November a letter was received from the London Fever Hospital, stating their willingness to admit Urban District Council cases recommended by me, at a reduced fee of 10/- per day, plus the cost of the Ambulance. This was consented to by your Council, and a letter sent, thanking them for the offer, and approving of the suggestion.

As our town is gradually extending in population and size, so must we progress in benefiting and improving some of the surrounding conditions. We all know and recognise that we had to be at a standstill during the Great War and for some time afterwards, owing to financial and other difficulties, which affected the whole of the country.

I would like to point out that, with the increasing traffic over our roads, certain roads and bye-roads require widening, and dangerous corners removed; and I am sure, if the land-owners, or their agents, were approached on the matter by your General Purposes and Highways Committees, great improvement and elimination of danger to pedestrians and motorists would result.

We cannot be blind to the numerous accidents that have occurred during the past year, due, in many instances, to dangerous corners and narrow roads.

Another point for improvement is the lighting of the roads, and particularly the road from the Station to the Old Town. This is particularly important to new residents and strangers, who do not know that winding road.

Again, we have a Picture Palace, which is patronised by people of the New and Old Town, who, after leaving which, have to traverse particularly dark and country-like roads, which are distinctly dangerous to pedestrians.

Another point, to my mind, is behind the times—the lighting regulations of hours and months is too countryfied, in comparison with the development of the town. We are a growing Urban District and not a country parish.

Another important matter is the drainage of the whole of the roads and compulsory connection with the sewer. Even in the Old Town I have discovered there are one or two still not connected up.

It is quite evident to any hygienic thinking person that it is quite time the Cesspool System should cease to exist. It is not only dangerous, especially when inadequate, but the barrel is unsightly and the work carried out expensive.

There have been erected some New Council Houses on a piece of land now known as Malt House Square. These are somewhat expensive for the working class, for whom they were designed.

There is no doubt more houses will have to be built, cheaper, and, at the same time, to meet the adequate requirements of the aforesaid class before certain old, dilapidated, and inadequate properties which have been marked as condemned in past years can be pulled down.

The Post Office arrangements and regulations, not only here, but all over the country, are, to my mind, worse to-day than of old. It only the other day came to my notice very specifically. A swab of a suspicious infectious case was sent by Post on a Saturday night, a special express fee having been paid, the result being urgent. The swab arrived at the Clinical Research Association on Monday morning, and the result to the practitioner was received on Tuesday evening, by 'phone, and Wednesday morning in written confirmation. It is unnecessary for me to recapitulate the methods of dealing with

Infectious Cases, it having been fully explained in many of my Annual Reports. But for general information to Medical Practitioners I would remind them that Bacteriological Examinations, Serums, and Vaccines, &c., will be paid for by the Council if I am communicated with on the matter.

The civilian population for the year is estimated at 3,537.

THE DEATH RATE per 1,000 population, 7.5.

Death Rate, England and Wales, 12.9.

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population, 14.4.

Birth Rate, England and Wales, 20.6.

INFANTILE MORTALITY per 1,000 births, 39.2.

There has been no deaths reported of women dying in, or in consequence of, Child Birth during the year.

Number of Deaths during the year, 27 (13 males 14 females).

Number of Births during the year 51 (27 males, 24 females).

Deaths of Infants under one year, 2.

It will be seen from the following Table there have been no deaths from any of the notifiable infectious diseases.

There have been three deaths from Cancer. Careful investigation has been made in these cases, the premises thoroughly disinfected, bedding and personal apparel destroyed and compensation made.

Influenza caused three deaths, but, taking into consideration the number of cases, it compares very favourably with districts in general.

### Table of Causes of Death.

Influenza ... ..	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4
Cancer ... ..	3
Heart Disease ... ..	5
Artero Sclerosis ... ..	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3
Nephritis ... ..	1
Congenital Debility ... ..	1
Suicide ... ..	1
Other defined Diseases ... ..	3

In December I made a Special Report on Smallpox and Vaccination, by your request.

It had been reported that in London and the Provinces something like 893 cases had occurred, and that there had been 26 deaths.

278 cases had been vaccinated, and 608 were either unvaccinated, or showed no signs of having been vaccinated,



and in 7 cases there was no official information as to Vaccination. There is no excuse why people should not have their children vaccinated. Moreover, I, as Public Vaccinator, can do it free of charge to the persons, providing they give me notice three days before they wish to be done. I have received memoranda on the subject from the Ministry of Health.

As I have repeatedly reported in my Annual Reports, the number of Vaccinations in Beaconsfield has been gradually declining, owing to the easy way objection papers are filled up by the Magistrates. Fortunately for us, Smallpox has, up to now, not broken out in our midst, otherwise it would be most difficult to cope with the Vaccination.

In 1902, when the population of Beaconsfield was only a little over 1,500, an epidemic broke out in London, and one case was discovered (a tramp) on the Wycombe Road, just outside our boundary. In consequence, a large proportion of our population, both old and young, were vaccinated.

### Cowsheds, Dairies, etc.

Memoranda and New Regulations re Milk and Dairies, has been received from the Ministry of Health. Your Inspector has regularly, in conjunction with myself, inspected the Cowsheds and Dairies, and there are a few points I will again bring to your notice.

There is no milk sent to London from the farms in this district.

The Milk Supply is derived entirely from the farms and dairies in the district.

Milk is the most nourishing of food, and most delicate, because it changes in character, chiefly due to micro-organisms, the moment it is drawn from the cow. A pure milk supply to a community is of the greatest importance, and especially in the present generation, there being a great tendency for mothers to bring up their offspring on the bottle and patent foods, rather than to carry out the natural laws of nature. To insure a pure supply depends on several important factors.

FIRSTLY, the periodical examination of milch cows for disease, especially tuberculosis, and the destruction of beasts proved to be diseased.

SECONDLY, particular cleanliness of the stall and sheds, which should be periodically cleaned and whitewashed; as few beams and rafters exposed as possible; and good supply of fresh air, without causing a draught.

THIRDLY, the well grooming of the cows, and particularly the cleaning of their udders before milking is commenced.

FOURTHLY, it is most important that all persons engaged in the milk industry, and especially the milkers, should be scrupulously clean, thoroughly washing their hands and arms before milking operations, using clean towels, and wearing clean smock or overall.

FIFTHLY, the cleanliness of all dairy utensils and cans for conveyance to the consumer.

The Danish style of milk can, with close-fitting lid, which throws off rain-water, is considered much better than the ordinary English railway churn.

LASTLY, the responsibility of the consumer by preventing contamination by dust and flies, etc., cleanliness of the utensil used, and giving up the bad habit of leaving receptacles outside the house for the milkman to put the milk into, as is frequently done by some people.

### Bakehouses.

These have been periodically visited, and instructions given for repairs, alterations, and limewashing.

### Slaughterhouses.

These have been regularly inspected, and orders given for limewashing, etc.

In April, Memorandum was received from the Ministry of Health, re Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

It is a most important matter that every facility should be given for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughtering, to insure the delivery to the public of sound and healthy meat.

The way to insure this is by having a Public Slaughterhouse for all butchers, and under the supervision of the Council's officers.

I have, years ago, brought this matter before you, and now that the Ministry of Health has moved its recommendation, it becomes imperative that it should be seriously considered by you.

### Nuisances, etc.

In June, complaints were made to me that stale and stinking fish, etc., were being shot into the chalkpit, in the vicinity of Stratton Road. Your Inspector and myself visited the spot, and found the refuse had been inadequately buried. We therefore interviewed the offender and owner of the property, and ordered the discontinuing of the nuisance.

In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity of again thanking Major Sargeant, your Inspector of Nuisances, for the assistance he has given me during the past year

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

**ARTHUR H. TURNER,**

Medical Officer of Health to the Beaconsfield  
Urban District Council.

Leigh House,  
Beaconsfield, Bucks.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1922.

This Return does not include work done under the Housing Acts.

### I.—GENERAL.

Number of inspections ... ..	166
Number of Complaints received ... ..	4
Nuisances detected without complaint ... ..	27
Notices Served, 14. Formal, 12. Informal, 1 ...	27
Nuisances abated—	
(a) By persons responsible ... ..	27
(b) By Council ... ..	Nil
Summonses taken out ... ..	Nil
Convictions ... ..	Nil

### II.—HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired ... ..	Nil
Spouts cleaned and repaired ... ..	Nil
Pavements repaired ... ..	Nil
Overcrowding abated ... ..	Nil
Dirty Houses cleansed ... ..	Nil
Other house defects remedied ... ..	1

### III.—DRAINS, W.C.s, &c.

Drains cleansed, repaired, or ventilated ... ..	6
New drains laid ... ..	6
W.C.s constructed ... ..	2
W.C.s repaired ... ..	3
W.C.s supplied with water (formerly without) ...	Nil
Earth closets, Privies, repaired ... ..	Nil
Cesspool constructed ... ..	2



## IV.—WATER SUPPLY.

Houses supplied with water (formerly without) ...	Nil
Sample of water analysed ... good ... bad ...	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired ... ..	Nil
Wells cleansed, repaired ... ..	Nil
Wells closed ... ..	Nil

## V.—FOOD.

Seizures of unsound food (details separately) ...	Nil
Surrenders of unsound food (details separately) ...	Nil

## VI.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register ... ..	3
Number of inspections ... ..	36
Number of defects found ... ..	2
Number of defects remedied ... ..	2

## VII.—BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register ... ..	4
Number of inspections ... ..	38
Number of defects found ... ..	2
Number of defects remedied ... ..	2

## VIII.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS.

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk on Register ... ..	3
Number of Cowkeepers on Register ... ..	2
Number of inspections ... ..	60
Number of defects found ... ..	1
Number of defects remedied ... ..	1

## IX.—FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register ... ..	9
Number of inspections ... ..	54
Number of defects found ... ..	Nil
Number of defects remedied ... ..	Nil

## X.—VARIOUS.

Visits to infected houses ... ..	6
Houses disinfected ... ..	6
Other items, e.g., Common Lodging Houses, Canal Boats, etc. ... ..	Nil

## Local Government Board Table.

STATEMENT required by Article V of the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling houses, under Section 17 (1) of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909-1920.

Number of houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Act ... ..	18
Number of such houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority, with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made by the Local Authority ... ..	Nil
Number of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders ... ..	2
Number of dwelling houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were made fit for habitation	Nil
Demolition Orders made ... ..	Nil
Number of houses demolished ... ..	Nil
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by Local Authority, and costs recovered ... ..	Nil
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by local Authority, and costs not yet recovered	Nil

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#### GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND :—

(a) Drainage defects ... ..	2
(b) Closet accommodation (insufficient or defective) ... ..	Nil
(c) Water supply exposed to pollution ... ..	Nil
(d) Insufficient circulation of air ... ..	Nil
(e) Dampness ... ..	3
(f) Insufficient light ... ..	Nil
(g) Dirty by tenant's default ... ..	Nil
(h) Dirty by landlord's default ... ..	Nil
(i) Insufficient paving ... ..	Nil
(j) Defective methods of refuse disposal ... ..	Nil
(k) Internal structural defects ... ..	1
(l) Defective roofs, gutters, and down pipes ...	1

## ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Infective Diseases Prevention Act, 1890 ... ..	Yes
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Pt. 3	Yes
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1870 ...	Yes

## BYELAWS.

Slaughter Houses ... ..	Yes
Common Lodging Houses ... ..	Yes
Houses let in Lodgings ... ..	No
New Streets and Buildings ... ..	Yes
Water Supply ... ..	Yes
Cleansing of Footways ... ..	Yes
Removal of House Refuse ... ..	Yes
Prevention of Nuisances ... ..	Yes
Cleansing of Privies ... ..	Yes
Keeping of Animals ... ..	Yes
Offensive Trades ... ..	No
Tents, Vans, &c. ... ..	No

## REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ... ..	Yes
Water Supply ... ..	No
Public Conveniences ... ..	No

MAJOR H. SARGANT,  
Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

